

PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC

Paris, January 15th, 1993

Mr. President,

Your country, like France, is anxious to see stability preserved in Rwanda. At the invitation of both parties, your country is participating as an observer in the negotiations in Arusha between representatives of the Rwandan government and a delegation from the rebel army, the Rwandan Patriotic Front.

These negotiations should lead to the holding, under an approaching deadline, of free elections in Rwanda. It is essential that they also permit the swift return of displaced persons to the land from which the conflicts chased them.

Today, 350,000 people live in tragic conditions. Suffering from hunger and malnutrition, especially among young children, they face a lack of hygiene, promiscuity, and idleness inherent in such regrouping of peoples.

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S.E. Mr. George BUSH
President of the United States of America

As well as the extreme gravity of the situation of the parties concerned, I would like to underline the risks that these people, displaced by war, represent to the security of an overpopulated country, subjected to extreme political tension and an increasing rate of delinquency.

Help from the Red Cross, the World Food Programme, the European Community, and other donor countries and NGOs is currently insufficient to respond to the food needs of these people and to give them back a minimum of dignity.

Faced with this tragic situation, we must therefore make a supplementary effort. France, for its part, has decided to dedicate, this year, 10 million Francs to help Rwandans displaced by war.

I would wish that other countries, including your own, which has always emphasized its interest in Rwanda, could also join in this humanitarian effort at an equal level.

Please accept, Mr. President, my highest regards, and loyal wishes

François MITTERAND